



29.1.2015

## EU Contact Committee Fiscal Policy Audit Network & Europe 2020 Strategy Audit Network Seminar, Lisbon 4-5 June 2015

Dear colleagues,

We are pleased to invite you to the Annual Seminar of the EU CC Fiscal Policy Audit Network and Europe 2020 Strategy Audit Network, which will be hosted by the Court of Accounts of Portugal in Lisbon on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> of June, 2015.

As we agreed at the meeting in Vienna in June 2014, we are proceeding with the preparatory work towards launching parallel audit(s) in 2016. The year 2015 will be devoted to the preparatory work, in order to include the parallel audit(s) into each SAI's Working Plan for 2016. Both Fiscal Policy Audit Network and Europe 2020 Strategy Network will submit a resolution draft on the parallel audit themes to the Contact Committee in June (18th and 19th), if enough SAIs agree to take part in the parallel audit(s).

### Fiscal Policy Audit Network

After the Vienna meeting, the following short list of parallel audit themes was formed:

- (1) Underlying risks for sustainability of public finances (liabilities, guarantees, public debt)
- (2) The formation and application of budgetary rules and its long-term effects
- (3) The reliability of the underlying data.

Please inform us by 20<sup>th</sup> of February if you are interested in participating in the parallel audit and please indicate your preferred parallel audit topics so that interested SAIs can be identified before the EU Liaison Officers' meeting in 19<sup>th</sup> of March 2015.

As in previous years, the aim of the working seminar is to share professional views and experiences among the EU SAIs. We are looking forward to seeing compact presentations in order to create a good starting point for lively discussions. The main ideas of the discussions will be summarised and presented for the entire audience. Within the Fiscal Policy session we welcome several types of presentation proposals, while the main focus is on i) the sustainability of public finances (including budget rules), ii) fiscal reporting, iii) solutions to the implementation of structural reforms, and iv) fiscal policy. Each participant is expected to give a short presentation on a theme discussed and/or prepare a commentary on a presentation. We kindly ask you to ponder your presentation topics, presentation proposal forms will be submitted later.

### Europe 2020 Strategy Audit Network

Within the Europe 2020 Strategy Audit Network the short list for parallel audit themes (including some topics, as examples) is:

- (1) Promoting employment ( "*Assess whether public funds used reduced unemployment*" ),
- (2) Promoting competitiveness through better education, research, development and innovation ( "*Assess whether higher education qualifies young professionals for competitive sectors*" ),

(3) Promoting environmental sustainability (*“Assess the efficiency of fiscal policy in promoting environmental sustainable solutions”*).

Please inform us, by 20<sup>th</sup> of February, if your SAI is interested in participating in the parallel audit and please indicate your preferred parallel audit topics so that interested SAIs can be identified before the EU Liaison Officers’ meeting on the 19th March.

Concerning the EU2020 session of the working seminar, the main focus will be on those 3 themes of the list for parallel audit, that are in fact Europe 2020 Strategy targets: i) promoting employment, ii) promoting competitiveness (including better education, research and development and innovation) and iii) promoting environmental sustainability. Each participant is invited to give a short presentation on a theme. Presentation proposal forms will be sent to you later.

### **Timetable**

The Lisbon Seminar will include a session devoted to the Fiscal Policy Audit Network and one session devoted to the Europe 2020 Strategy Audit Network. For both Seminars please reserve the whole day (from 9 a.m. till 5 p.m.). Practical information and registration forms will be sent in February. Please note that more detailed information on the parallel audits is available in Annex I and in Annex II.

We are looking forward to fruitful discussions and information sharing to find effective tools for auditing challenges.

Yours sincerely,

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Chair of the CC Fiscal Policy Audit Network

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